



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Jane Robison,
Sr. Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
jrobison@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Sept. 10, 2014

Man Convicted of Decades-Old Murder

A jury today convicted a 55-year-old Los Angeles man of the first-degree murder of an 80-year-old Venice woman nearly four decades ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jurors deliberated just 1 ½ hours before finding Dennis Vazquez (CQ) guilty of the Dec. 17, 1975, strangulation of Alice Lewis. Her body was discovered inside her Venice home.

Deputy District Attorney Guillermo Santiso, who prosecuted the case, said prosecutors believed she was killed during a residential burglary.

No suspects were identified until decades later when DNA was tested from stored evidence. In 2009, a DNA hit identified Vazquez as a suspect. At the time of the murder, Vazquez was a week away from turning 17.

A second defendant, Kevin Michael Shanahan, now 54, also was charged with her murder. A judge ruled in 2012 that he was incompetent to stand trial and he was sent to Patton State Hospital.

The Los Angeles Police Department's Robbery-Homicide Division investigated the case.

Vazquez is facing up to life in state prison when he returns for sentencing on Nov. 5 before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Elden Fox at the Airport Branch. He was charged in case SA075533.

#

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.